

ANNUAL Report 2017



**AGENCY FOR INTEGRATED RURAL
DEVELOPMENT**

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACSA:	Advocacy Coalition on Sustainable Agriculture
AFIRD:	Agency for Integrated Rural Development
FG:	Farmer group
GMO:	Genetically Modified Organisms
ILUD:	Integrated Land Use Design
KIFAD:	Kiyita Family Alliance for Development
MADDO:	Masaka Diocesan Development Organisation
MAURIK:	Makerere University Agriculture Research Institute Kampala
NaCRRI:	National Crops Resources Research Institute
NGOs:	Non Government Organizations
PELUM:	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
SA:	Sustainable Agriculture

AFIRD VISION, MISSION AND STRATEGIC AREAS

“ Since 1997, AFIRD has been working to improve the livelihoods of small holder farmers and schools, through capacity building in sustainable natural resource management and environmental conservation for food security and better income. ”

Our **VISION**

A society free from hunger and disease living in a peaceful and green environment

Our **MISSION**

To enable the more vulnerable smallholder farmers in the increasingly urbanizing Wakiso, Mpigi and Mukono districts to be nutrition secure and to have increased income with a special emphasis on young people and to contribute to policy development and implementation towards sustainable farming in Uganda.

STRATEGIC AREAS

1

Agriculture production and environment:

Ecological agriculture, farmer led approach, plant breeding, indigenous vegetables, information sharing and documentation.

2

Youth empowerment:

Promoting school community led extension approach, consistent documentation of work done and studies.

3

Agriculture market development:

farmers access premium markets and collective marketing

4

Advocacy and Lobbying:

Community capacity to participate in public affairs and leaders to participate in budgeting and planning.

5

Organisational and institutional development:

Capacity building for staff development, resource mobilisation and development of AFIRD center business plans.

MESSAGE FROM CHAIRPERSON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Joseph Kasule
Chairperson
Executive Committee

On behalf of the Executive committee, I am pleased to present to you this annual report of AFIRD for the year 2017.

During the course of the year, we carried out a number of interventions that brought about achievements towards improving the livelihoods of small scale farmers.

I express my deepest gratitude to the Executive Committee Members, Field officers and the entire staff of AFIRD who always work tirelessly to see a change in the livelihoods of small scale farmers for the better. The journey to success has never been smooth.

Special thanks go to our Development Partners for the continuous support. These include; Misereor and Tudor Trust who have stood with us at all times to ensure that development is achieved in our areas of operation.

We also send our sincere gratitude to our collaborators; Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Uganda in particular has done a great work towards capacity building. Advocacy Coalition on Sustainable Agriculture (ACSA),

Food Rights Alliance (FRA) and Uganda Water & Sanitation NGO Network (UWASNET) are also thanked for their good relation and work shared with AFIRD.

Last but not least, I wish to thank our beneficiaries with whom we have implemented the various projects. And Finally the government of Uganda which has continuously provided a stable and peaceful environment to favor our work.

It's my plea to all development agents; Government, Donors, NGOs, CBOs, development groups, individuals and the public at large never to give up but continue with the struggle to fight poverty.

For God and my country.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Eustace Sajjabi
Executive Director.

AFIRD made 20 years of existence, as the organization grows, I have been privilege to grow along with it, working together as a team to support small holder farmer who are the main food providers of our country.

Despite the fact that Agriculture is the back-bone of Uganda's economy, the sector still faces several worrying trends. These put economic, environmental and social development at stake.

Foremost are adverse climate change effects, undependable agro inputs, unfavorable markets and land conflicts. Many of these problems are associated with the: poor management of natural resources, limited access to market information and population growth.

The smallholder farmers face an uphill task to make ends meet. It's upon this that AFIRD has put efforts to improve the livelihoods through promoting sustainable farming practices among farmers and schools so as to unlock their potentials as custodians of natural resources.

AFIRD has contributed to generating strong platforms that will enable farmers and schools adopt sustainable agriculture practices so as to become resilient to the changing environment.

I express my sincere pleasure to our partners, the Executive Committee, farmers, government and staff for their contributions towards AFIRD's Mission.

AFIRD STAFF



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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MUSISI ALIPIO
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BUCHANA EMMANUEL
PROGRAM ASSISTANT
AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION



NAKIREMBEKA MEABLE
WELFARE OFFICER



BWAMBALE JOSEPH
FARM MANAGER

1.0 INTRODUCTION



Farmers from the medium groups establishing their trial plot of beans using recommended agronomic practices

Agency For Integrated Rural Development (AFIRD) is grateful to share 2017 successes in this annual report. This report presents a summary of the achievements attained from our work among small holder farmers and schools. AFIRD has been running two projects; Promoting Sustainable Agriculture in Kakiri, Mende and Masulita Sub-counties; and Integrated Land Use Design/Permaculture in 12 schools in Wakiso district. Both projects run in the sub-counties of Gombe, Masulita and Mende.

Various interventions under each of the two projects, were carried out. Results from the interventions contributes to a great extent the achievement of the organization's strategic objectives. The year 2017 was when implementation of the five year strategic direction (2017-2021) started.

2.0 ACHIEVEMENTS FROM THE YEAR 2017



Ms Baabiry Prossy a member Of Mirembe development farmers group demonstrate soil and water harvesting structure; the trench, well stabilized using setaria grass a pasture for animals

These are presented as per strategic area.

2.0 Achievements are given per strategic area.

2.1. AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION AND ENVIRONMENT.

Agency For Integrated Rural Development put a lot of efforts into promoting ecological agriculture for food and income.

Emphasis was put towards Seed security at community levels, soil and water conservation, fertility management and integration of animals into the farming system. We employed use of farmer led approaches where groups developed their action plans and were supported by Farmer trainers to implement them. In addition, village level documentation was encouraged through use of smart phones- to convey messages in various forms.

I. ORGANIC FARMING;

AFIRD conducted single day seminars with 26 farmer groups, through which farmers were sensitized on the agro chemical use. Continuous use of agro chemicals was realized by the farmers to be a threat to the lives of people as well as to the environment.

To reverse this situation, farmers mentioned alternative ways to reduce chemical use. Such as the use of organic fertilizers, mulching and integrating methods to manage pests and diseases.

In relation to this, making and using organic manure using worms (vermiculture), was introduced among ten new farmer groups.

Each group was supported to establish a vermiculture unit where the worms were introduced. Farmers adopted this practice by using the liquid manures as well as the composte generated.

Furthermore, ten new farmer groups were; trained in a two-day seminar per group on the different ways of maintaining fertility in the soils. Practices like inter cropping, cover cropping, making and using compost manure/ liquid manure and animal dung were emphasized.

II. FARMER LED APPROACH.

This is a new approach of extension that AFIRD introduced among the medium farmer groups. Two Trainers of trainees were selected per each of the 16 medium groups. A total of 32 TOTs were trained and empowered to train fellow farmers. The TOTs hacc played a big role in transfer of knowledge to farmers within and those outside their groups.

The TOT work is guided by the work plans that were developed by each of the 16 farmer groups after understanding the challenges still fencing themselves. The farmers' challenges were determined through a needs assessment that was conducted among the medium farmers.

111. SEED SECURITY

Farmers working hand in hand with Researchers from NaCCRI were able to establish trial plots for beans and bananas. Through this, farmers compared characteristics of their seed with Seed developed by Research stations. The process is expected to help farmers select seeds that have characteristics they desire.

Farmers from eight medium groups were involved in this exercise and managed the research exercise in the second season of theyear.



In the picture above, Ms Nanyonga Faith from Jagala FG displaying different varieties of beans which they were able to harvest from their bean trial plot.

IV. INDIGENOUS VEGETABLES,

AFIRD supported farmers through conducting trainings on vegetable growing per each of the ten new group in a two day seminar.

In addition farmers were supported with initial seeds to establish multiplication gardens. The seeds were Solanum Spp (nakati), Spider plant (jyobyoy) and lima beans (Bigagga). Farmers

have adopted this practice. They were able to establish vegetable gardens which are supplying them with vegetable rich in vitamins and minerals that were missing in their diets.

They were also able to earn income from these vegetables. And currently they are gathering vegetable seeds and plan to expand the gardens of vegetables.

V. INFORMATION SHARING AND DOCUMENTATION

A study about permaculture was conducted and published for the bigger community to access information about permaculture approach in schools.

Among the farmers, Information sharing and documentation was enhanced by providing two



In the above picture, TOT of Kavule organic FG was sharing information on the progress of their bean trial plot.

Among the farmers, Information sharing and documentation was enhanced by providing two smart phones per group for conveying information. As a result, a whatsapp platform where agriculture related information is shared was developed and became functional.

CASE STUDY

CASE STUDY 1: SEED SECURITY

In the above picture is Grace Nalunga, a resident of Jomba village in katikamu parish in Masulita Sub County, Wakiso district. She is a member of Twekembe abbakadde. She was supported by the SA project to establish indigenous vegetable gardens. She managed to establish about ten plants of lima beans. According to her, these plants have been supplying to her family , beans (dry and fresh) for consumption through the dry season.



Nalunga Grace from Jomba Village Harvesting Lima beans

CASE STUDY 2: SOIL FERTILITY



Figure 1Ms Katerega Betty and her fellow member of Kirwanira women farmers group in Matugga, inspecting their newly established vermi culture unit.

Betty is a small holder farmer aged 43. She is a resident of kilwanira in Gombe Division of Nansana municipal ,Wakiso district ,she has practiced agriculture for two years on two acres.

On this two acres she has been able to grow; banana, maize, beans and also rear rabbits and guinea pigs. Initially her production was low and due to ignorance she could not commercialize.

AFIRD's supported her in trainings on soil and water conservation and soil fertility management. As a result her soil is now fertile and gives higher yields. She used to harvest two tins (40kgs)of beans but after implementing the trainings, in the first season she harvested 110kgs, there has been enough food and reserving some seeds for the next planting season without buying.

The soils are conserved and rich with manure, crop rotation is observed as trained by AFIRD, this has helped the soils to continuously be productive and reliable, she is seeing agriculture as a business enterprise and has high hopes for the future.

2.2. YOUTH EMPOWERMENT:



The Executive Director Mr.Sajjabi Eustace inspecting agriculture work done at St. Josephs Kanzize Primary school.

Efforts to promote youth empowerment focused at promoting school community led extension approach, consistent documentation of work done and studies. Described in the following section below is work that was done among schools supported under permaculture project.

The second year of implementing ILUD/ permaculture among schools has seen AFIRD help more schools in Wakiso District to transform their landscapes from desert like to more productive ones. Three more schools (St. Joseph Kanzize, Kalongero Junior and Kiziba Mixed) in Masulita Sub County. The Integrated land use design (ILUD) approach has facilitated schools to redesign their school land using the permaculture design frame work.

The Permaculture designs assists in developing conducive learning environments with sustainable food and Land Systems, cooperative economics, shelter while increasing biodiversity, resilience, and

local economy. ILUD and Permaculture creates an environment where there's inclusive participation towards school community problem solving by all key stakeholders (parents, teachers, pupils and local leaders)

Some of the practices introduced on school land include: Soil and water conservation, agroforestry, staples and vegetable growing, live fencing, soil fertility management, waste management, tree nurseries, mushroom growing and solar drying. A combination of these practices has transformed school land from the former bear and dusty image to more productive landscapes.

The above schools have also been supported through regular extension and follow up visits for technical assistance during implementation.

Besides eradicating bear and dusty conditions among project schools, we have registered tremendous successes which include:

- Additional meals at schools
- Enhanced environment literacy among schools
- Contributed to improved teaching and learning conditions and performances
- Harnessed schools' and local community relationships

Below are pictures showing the gradual transformation of St. Theresa Bakka primary school compound in Mende sub county of Wakiso district.



2016 at the start of permaculture



2017 after one year of introducing permaculture



Soil & water conservation at Kalongero junior



Pupils of Mende Kalema ps learn Banana production skills



Productive Surface water harvesting and utilization at St. Joseph Kanzize



Productive food pathways in schools



Mushroom production at St. Kizito Buzimba ps

2.3. AGRICULTURE MARKET DEVELOPMENT.



Mr Mubiru Nezikokolima member Of Gombe farmers group exhibiting their group products during the green action week in Masaka at St Jude.

Efforts to promote agriculture market development focused at supporting farmers access premium markets. This was by promoting their products through Radio programmes, Exhibition and sharing of market information.

1. EXHIBITIONS

Through SA project, farmers were supported to participate in agriculture exhibitions at both local, regional and local levels.

These included; the indigenous and traditional food fair at national level and the green action week at regional level in Masaka. Furthermore, farmers participated in a local exhibition that was organized by AFIRD where 20 years of her existence were celebrated.

In the indigenous food fair; AFIRD was awarded with trophy after emerging as the first runners up among the exhibitors of the day.



2. RADIO TALK SHOW

All the 26 farmers that are supported by the project were mobilized to listen to call back radio programmes that were aired on Wednesdays on Radio two Kaboozi. In addition, farmers from the medium groups were supported to participate in that kind of programme where they promoted their products.



3. MARKET INFORMATION

The organization continued to promote use of market information by farmers. This was done through use of smart phones and a whatsapp group in 16 farmer groups. In addition, Boards installed at farmer group level were used by the farmers to convey the products that were available for the market.

2.4. ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING



Ms Namuli Nuruh , the Wakiso district secretary for production addressing Farmers in one of the dialogue meeting held at Sanga in Gombe sub county.

Efforts to promote advocacy and lobbying focused at empowering community to have capacity to participate in public affairs and leaders to participate in budgeting and planning.

AFIRD collaborated with the ministry of lands, housing and urban development to develop translated publications with information that help to guide farmers to fight for their land rights in local languages (Luganda). These were; Obuyinza bwa nanyini ttaka n'omusenze ku ttaka and etteka kyeligamba ku kusengula abantu.

These were then distributed to farmers. Furthermore, farmers and their group leaders were sensitized in a one day seminar on the process of planning, budgeting and monitoring. Through these seminars, Farmers from all the sixteen groups, were able to gain knowledge on the process and when and how they can participate during the planning, budgeting and monitoring in Uganda.

2.5. ORGANIZATIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT



AFIRD learnig centre and office

Efforts to promote organization and institutional development focused on staff capacity building for staff development and resource mobilization through development of AFIRD center business plans.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT;

Under this area, AFIRD was able to organize two capacity building trainings in form of learning visits. These included; MUARIK learning visit where the staff were supported to learn about Goat management, Vermiculture and making charcoal briquettes.

MADDO learning visit, staff were supported to visit this organization work on water harvesting technologies and value addition and processing. Using the knowledge obtained,during the study, AFIRD is now producing briquettes in addition to vermiculture products.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION;

This has been mainly from AFIRD center technologies such as; vegetable growing, nursery bed seedlings, seed saving, Rabbit keeping, vermiculture and charcoal briquettes.

The above technologies are being developed to produce high value products that are able to fetch better prices in the market. Vermiculture has been developed to packaged products (in both liquid and solid manure) ready for market, rabbit's urine product has been developed as another manure alternative and 'Ecochar' a charcoal briquette product from waste is promoted as a way of profitably utilizing waste to produce energy.

Some of the products being produced for income generation at AFIRD Centre. ⇔



3.0 IMPORTANT EVENTS DURING THE YEAR 2017



AFIRD stakeholders cutting a cake during the AFIRD at 20 celebrations at St. Theresa Bakka primary school.



Farmers participating in an agricultural exhibition during the schools open day at Bakka primary school



Farmers from Gombe being trained about establishing a bean trial plot.

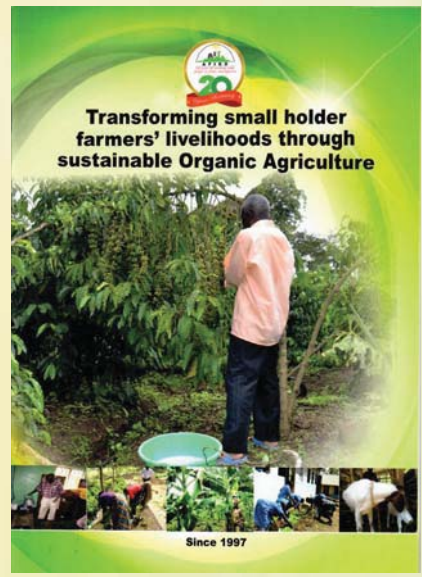
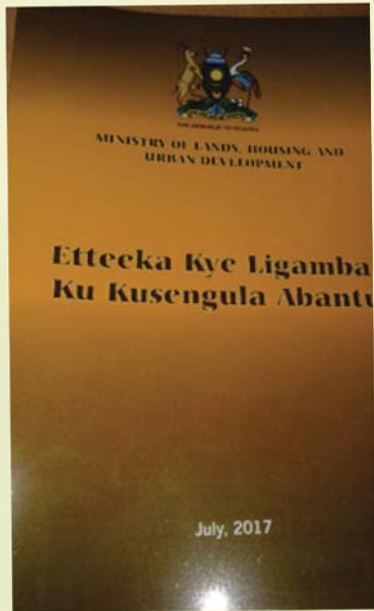
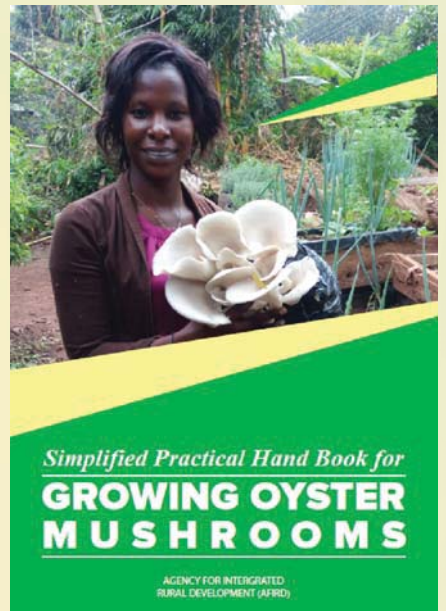
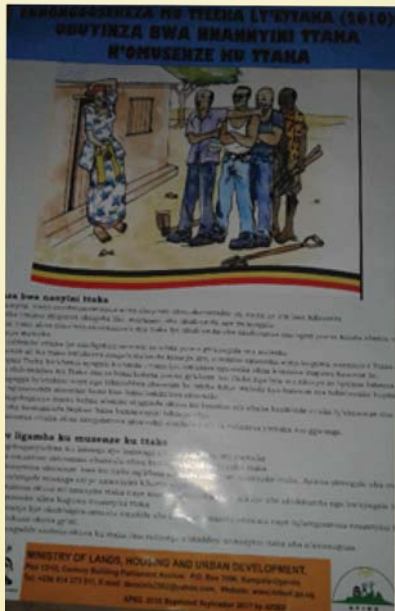
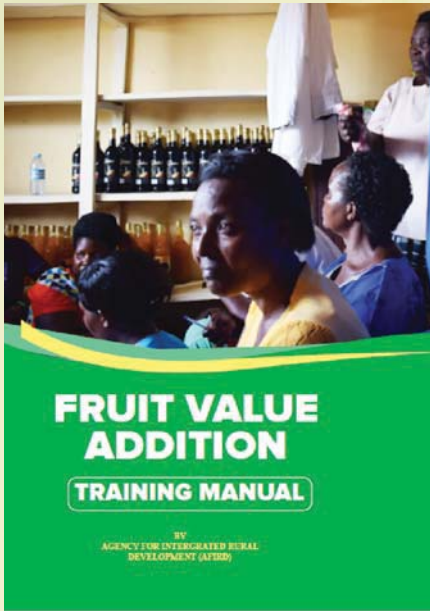


Farmers were supported by SA project to participate in the voluntary counseling and testing services at JOMBA Village in Masulita sub county.



St. Kizito Buzimba primary school pupils at the indigenous food fair Kampala

4.0 PUBLICATIONS



5.0 LESSONS LEANT AND CHALLENGES.

CHALLENGES

- The increasing plant diseases for major crops like the banana bacterial wilt and coffee wilt that affects crops
- Outbreak of new pests like the fall army worm that affected maize
- Due to outbreak of new pests and diseases in crops, it compelled the farmers to use chemicals which affected their organic status and also exposed them to chemical usage hazards
- Price fluctuations led to low profit margins. this demoralized farmers
- Continuous decrease in land for agriculture production due to land evictions by landlords.
- Inadequate funding to some of our strategic areas
- Climate change effects especially prolonged drought and hailstones that killed animals and crops

LESSONS LEARNT

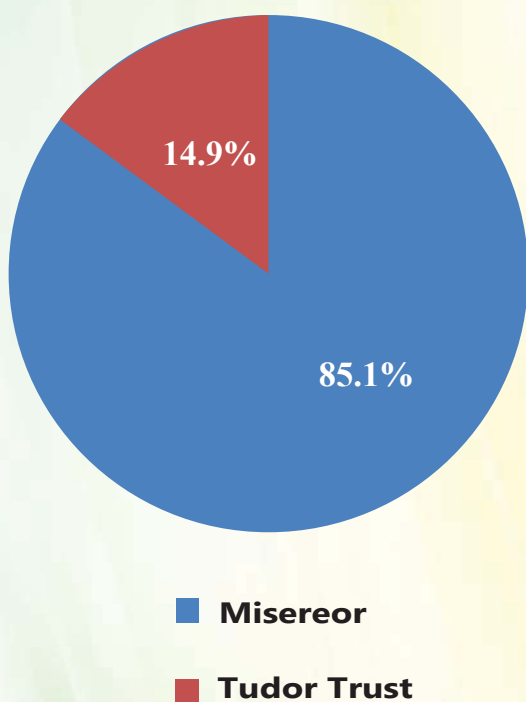
- Use of soil and water conservation structures increase infiltration and maintains soil moisture availability long after the rainy season
- Integrating Livestock and crop production enhance farming as there is mutual benefits from the two
- Making and using locally made manure reduce expenses.
- Group strengthening and empowerment is as a result of group members' efforts. eg through saving and credit scheme, farmer groups have been able to acquire assets.
- Participating in exhibitions not only attract market opportunities but also provide farmers an opportunity to learn from each other and also exchange seeds.

- Through the needs assessment farmers realized that, they still have challenges and also have capacity to work towards reducing them.
- Through the establishment and management of the bean trials, farmers realized that even their saved indigenous seed had desirable benefits when compared to seeds produced by Research stations.
- Empowering farmers give them power to participate in government leadership.
- Farmers have become aware that they are part of policy making organs from lower local government up to the national level.
- Empowering Farmers gives them courage to take on activities by themselves
- All the group members should be able to benefit from the inputs the first time, waiting for long through the revolving scheme becomes a source of conflict
- Farmers trained help to mentor others.
- Farmer group strengthening requires continuous interventions.
- Climate change is forcing farmers to take on agro chemicals for example pesticides for army worm control
- Big size animals are steadily losing ground in areas where land conflict are prevalent and now farmers are resorting to keeping small size animals like rabbits.
- Farmer groups can break up when the impact of urbanization is not taken seriously

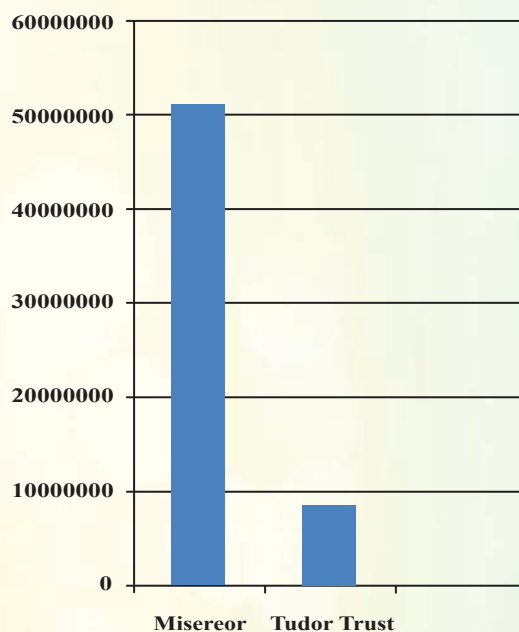
6.0 FUNDING

AFIRD financial base in 2017 was UGX 595,695,315 of which Misereor contributed UGX 506, 425, 582 and Tudor trust contributed UGX 89,269,733. We would like to thank the two Donors for their support.

A PIE CHART SHOWING PERCENTAGE DONOR CONTRIBUTION



A GRAPH SHOWING THE TOTAL ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION BY DONOR (UGX)



ANNEX 1:

LIST OF FARMER GROUPS AND SCHOOLS THAT WORKED WITH AFIRD IN 2017

No.	Medium FGs	Sub county	Village	No	New FGs	Sub county	Village
1	Mirembe development farmers	Gombe	Bubale	1	Kirwanira women group	Gombe	Matugga
2	Twekembe nkoma farmers	Gombe	Nkoma	2	Nasse youth association	Gombe	Nasse
3	Miggadde tukolerewamu farmers	Gombe	Miggade	3	Akwata empola Nabalanga farmers	Masulita	Katikamu
4	Kingidde farmers	Gombe	Kingidde	4	Abakadde Twekembe farmers	Masulita	Katikamu
5	Kigogwa-kilyowa farmers group	Gombe	Kigogwakilyowa	5	Lwemwedde self help	Masulita	Lwemwedde
6	Kibungo-kilyamulifarmers group	Gombe	Kibungokilyamuli	6	Twezimbe farmers group	Masulita	Lwemwedde
7	Buwambo farmers	Gombe	Buwambo	7	Akwata empola wanjeyo	Masulita	Wanjeyo
8	Munaku kaama farmers	Gombe	Bibbo	8	Balandiza Kimeze farmers	Mende	Kaliti
9	Tusitukire farmers	Gombe	Kitungwa	9	Muzanganda farmers	Mende	Banda
10	Gombe farmers	Gombe	Gombe	10	Mende development	Mende	Mende
11	Busikiri farmers	Gombe	Busikiri				
12	Jagaala farmers	Gombe	Jagaala				
13	Zibula attudde farmers	Gombe	Wambale				
14	Mwererwe farmers group	Gombe	Mwererwe				
15	Kavule organic farmers association	Gombe	Kavule				
16	Biyinzika farmers	Gombe	Mwererwe				
	Schools	District	Sub county		Schools	District	Sub county
1	Child to Child primary school	Wakiso	Kakiri	6	Kiziba mixed primary school	Wakiso	Masulita
2	Sentema c/s primary	Wakiso	Kakiri	7	St. Joseph Kanzize	Wakiso	Masulita
3	St.Kizito-Buzimba primary school	Wakiso	Kakiri	8	Kalongero Junior school	Wakiso	Masulita
4	Mende Kalema primary school	Wakiso	Mende	9	St. Theresa Bakka Primary school	Wakiso	Mende
5	Kaababi Bulondo primary school	Wakiso	Mende				

AGENCY FOR INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT (AFIRD)



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